

THE HISTORY  
LIVES AND ADVENTURES  
OF  
**St. George,**  
The Noble  
Champion of England.



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The History of  
Saint George

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C H A P. I.

*Of the birth of St. George, and how he was  
brought up.*

**I**N the famous city of Coventry, situate near the heart of the kingdom of England, a renowned peer, named Lord Albert had a stately palace, which was accommodated with all the various beauties and delights which the habitation of so noble a person may be expected to be.

Lord Albert was lineally descended from Eneas : and was a man of an undaunted spirit ; which led him to perform many



herick and brave acts, for which the king highly honoured him, preferring him to places of the chief trust in the kingdom.

His Majesty had a daughter, the most beautiful and virtuous woman of the time she lived in. Her, in reward for some very gallant deed performed by Lord Albert, the King bestowed on him in marriage.

After living some time in the greatest happiness, enjoying all conjugal felicity, the lady, to the inexpressible joy of both proved with child. But in the midst of this bliss they met with a damp which converted all their pleasures into sorrows, for the lady dreamed she conceived a dragon, which would be the cause of her death. She was much troubled at this dream, and did not know in what manner to act; sometimes she thought of telling it to her husband, but the fear of raising an uneasiness in the breast of one she tenderly loved, hindered her, 'till it made her so uneasy that she revealed it to him. It very much surprised him, and not knowing any other

way to proceed, he took a Knight with him, and went to the walks of Kalyb, to ask the enchantress to interpret it. At the gate of her cave they found a trumpet, which they sounded, and immediately heard a voice utter these words :

Sir Knight, begone and mark me well,  
 Within the Ladies whom doth dwell  
 A son, who like a dragon fierce,  
 His mother's tender whom will pierce :  
 A valiant champion he shall be,  
 In noble acts of chivalry  
 Begone, I now bid you adieu ;  
 You'll find what I have told is true.

Albert, amazed at these words, was for sounding the trumpet a second time, but fearing the displeasure of the enchantress, he departed home, and found the lady delivered, but dead, and the child (who was afterwards called St. George) stolen by the enchantress Kalyb : which grieved him so, that he died soon after.

The enchantress brought up St. George in her cave fourteen years, letting him want for nothing, giving him liberty to walk the woods attended by ten frightful satyrs, fearing he should make his escape; for the enchantress so much doated on him, that at last she lusted for him; but he utterly rejected her, by reason of her witchcraft.

Nevertheless, hoping to gain his liberty, he did seem averse to her as he really was; by which means he gained her favour so much that she resigned her power to him, and told him his parents.

One day she led him to a large brazen castle where she kept close prisoners six young knights, the flower of the countries that gave them birth: Their names were Andrew of Scotland, David of Wales, Patrick of Ireland, Dennis of France, James of Spain, and Anthony of Italy.

Then she led him to a magnificent stable, where were six horses belonging to the six Knights.

From thence they went into a room, where was the richest armour ever made.

Kalyb picked out the best helmet and breast plate, and put 'em on him herself, putting a falcheon into his hand, and saying, now thou art iuvincible.

Thus being blinded with lust, she put her silver wand into his hand; which caused her destruction, for, as they walked by a rock, she struck it with the wand and it opened. There he saw a number of infants she had killed by her enchantments.

Follow me, said she, and I will shew thee more: then he stepping in, he with the wand struck the rock, and it closed up.

Thus ended the enchantment, and St. George released the six champions, who returned him many thanks, and they all departed different ways, in search of adventures.

## C H A P. II.

*How St. George arrived in Egypt, and killed a Dragon, with many other wonderful Achievements.*

ST. George, after passing many dangers and difficulties, arrived at last in Egypt. He travelled many miles without meeting any person, till it was near night, when he met a hermit, of whom he asked where he might find entertainment, the hermit said, he did not know, for the whole kingdom almost were defected by its inhabitants, on account of a monstrous dragon, who every day devoured a virgin, and had destroyed all but the King's daughter, who was that day to be sacrificed to him, except some valiant Knight save her by killing the dragon, for which deed she should be given to her deliverer in marriage.

When St. George had heard the hermit's

story, he told him he would the next morning slay the dragon, or die in the attempt. The old man was overjoyed at this resolution, and taking St. George to his habitation gave him the best reception it would afford,

The next morning St. George arose, and after taking a little necessary refreshment, pursued the road which the hermit inform'd him led to the place where this monster dwelt.

As he was riding, he saw the king and queen, with their attendants lead Sabra, (the kings daughter) to a stake where they bound her, for the dragon's next meal; and after tenderly embracing they all left her, except some old ladies, who were weeping bitterly on account of their mistress's approaching fate.—St. George immediately on the departure of the king, came to the princess, and spokd thus:

Fair Princess, and ye Matrons all,  
Refrain, and mourn no more;  
For by the fiery dragon's fall,  
Your freedom I'll restore,

The Princess admired his courage, and gave him the following answer :

Sir Knight, I give you thanks, quoth she,  
That undertakes this fight,  
And since it is for love of me,  
The King shall you requite.

Then St. George kissed the Princess's hand, and turning round to leave her, and seek the dragon, he espied him coming to the place where they were.

Immediately St. George rode to him, and struck him with his spear; but his scales were so hard that they were impenetrable by that or any other instrument. Then the dragon with his tail, struck him off his horse: so that he was forced to draw his sword, and fight on foot.

At last, when he was almost suffocated by the poison thrown on him by the dragon, he saw a naked place under his left wing, into which he thrust his sword, and by that means ended his life.

This done, he returned thanks to the Almighty, who had empowered him to perform this great deed; and then cutting off the dragon's head, he put it on the point of his spear, in order to carry it to court, and claim the Princess, whom he immediately released from them stake.

As they were going towards the court, they were met by a great number of armed men, some of whom took away Sabra, and the rest fell upon St. George, whom they tried to destroy; but he valiantly withstood them, and in the end put all to flight that he had not killed.

This was the scheme of Aminder, King of Morocco, who was in love with Sabra, and knowing St. George had gained her by killing the dragon, had contrived thus to destroy him.

St. George having again got Sabra in his possession, went with her to court, where she introduced him to the King her father, who received him with all gratitude imaginable, and ordered bonfires to be made, and

the bells to be rung in token of joy for her deliverance, and her preserver's welcome.

But tho' St. George was careffed and admired by the king and all the court, yet the king of Morocco still envied him, and he contrived divers ways to desily him, but all his attempts were abortive, and were generally found out before they arrived at perfection,

Sabra represented his malice and envy to her father, but he was so prepossessed in Aminder's favour, that he would not believe what she said against him, and ordered her not to say anything more that tended to Aminder's discredit.

This so emboldened Aminder that he accused St. George of being a Christian, and enemy to their religion, and of trying to convert the Princefs, which so enraged the king, that he swore the death of St. George, but not daring openly to attempt his murder, he and Aminder concerted the

**Scheme:** Sabra's father wrote a letter to the Sultan of Persia, desiring him by some means to destroy the bearer, who was to be St. George.

Then sending for St. George, the king told him he desired he would carry that letter to the sultan of Persia, it being of such business, that he could trust it to no hand but his, and that when he returned he should have Sabra in marriage.

He set forward with all possible speed, impatient to receive the promised reward. As he went he could not help taking notice of the idolatry of the Persians, and at last his zeal for the service of Christ transported him so far, that he went into their temples, overthrew their images, &c. which caused the whole kingdom to rise in arms against him: he slew great numbers of them, but at last they overpowered him, and brought him before the sultan, who vowed he should die the most cruel death that could be invented.

St. George told them to suspend his

judgment till he had read the letter which  
came from the king of Egype, and them  
gave it to him. The sultan read it and then  
ordered him to be cast into a dungeon.

When he had been there two days they  
let down two hungry lions to devour him,  
but these he killed with a old sword he  
found in the dungeon.

Here he remained seven years, in which  
time Sabra was forced by her father to  
marry Aminder, but she being still con-  
stant to St. George, went to a necromancer  
with whose assistance she preserved her vir-  
tue from Arhinder.

### CHAP. III,

How St. George got out of Prison, and  
released St. David, who was enchanted.

ST. George had now remained seven  
years in this dismal dungeon, feeding

on nothing but on bats and mice; when one day, as he was walking in a melancholy manner about the prison, it saw something which he thought to be a stick, but on a closer view it proved a strong iron crow.

With this he thought might be serviceable to him in making his escape, till proved so for with it he dug a passage into the Persian court; when he found he had got near thereto he laid aside his instrument till midnight, when he finished the passage, and got out of prison, into the court, and there found the grooms preparing the sultan's horse for hunting next morning and in another part others cleaning his armour,

St. George, resolving not to miss the favourable opportunity, seized the best of the armour, and a horse and immediately rode away.

On his journey he was much distressed for victuals, and riding along the confines of Greece; he saw a lady at a gate, to whom he applied for relief.

She advised him to be quickly gone, for if the giant who kept the castle saw him he would destroy him. St. George with his usual resolution said with a loud voice. He'd rather die in fight than with hunger: the giant hearing this, came out, and met his death, after a fierce combat, from the victorious hand of St. George. VEN

The giant being dead, he entered the castle, and refreshed himself, and then pursued his journey till he came to a garden, where St. David was enchanted, and had been kept sleeping seven years. St. George seeing a sword stuck in the wall near St. David, pulled it out and he immediately awaked. Having thanked St. George for disenchating him they parted.

**C H A P. IV.****How St. George regained Sabra.**

**W**HEN Sabra and the King of Morocco were married, they went to his kingdom, which St. George hearing of went thither immediately after parting with St David, as mentioned in the last chapter.

When he came near the court he changed cloaths with a peasant whom he chanced to meet, and went among a number of people to a place where Sabra used to bestow alms.

The baggars being gone, St. George presented a ring to her, which she had given him. She immediately knew him, and after tenderly embracing, told him that was the fittest time for her escape, the king being then at a distant part of the

kingdom on affairs of state. St. George having fitted himself with a suit of the King's armour, they took horse, attended by a trusty servant of Sabra's.

They rode 'till they were almost starved. At last St. George espied a deer, which he ran after, leaving Sabra with the servant. In his absence two hungry lions rushed on the servant, whom they devoured, leaving Sabra untouched, on account of her being a virgin.

St. George returning met the lions, whom he destroyed, and then kindled a fire with some sticks, and dressed some of the venison. They at length arrived in England, where they were received with great joy.

Soon after St. Georgess arrival, he went to Coventry, but had not been long there, before St. David and the other champions sent to desire his assistance against the Pagans, who had invaded Hungary, and other parts of Christendom.

St. George, after taking leave of Sabra, went ; and the Christians obtained a compleat victory. While they were rejoicing for their conquest, a messenger came to St. George, and desired to speak with him in private.

When they were alone, the messenger informed him, that Sabra was condemned to die, unless some valiant champion delivered her by overcoming the Baron of Chester in fight. St. George thereupon acquainted the other six champions with the sad news, and taking his leave, immediately departed for England.

The day upon which he arrived, happened to be that whereon Sabra was to be executed, and no champion had appeared for her. However, just as she approached the pile, St. George came and demanded entrance in the defence of the lady.

Upon this the trumpet sounded a charge, and immediately the two champions rushed

together with great fury, and after a fierce combat, St. George conquer'd; and there-



on demanded the lady, who was delivered to him. As soon as she was released, they tenderly embraced each other.

As soon as they recovered the past fatigues, St. George desired to know the reason of her sentence, which was thus:

Some months after your departure, said she, the lustful Earl of Coventry happened to see me and was inflam'd with a desire of enjoying me, and therefore he found means to meet me in a grove, and told me if I

did not comply he'd force me. I there-upon desired time to consider of it: to this he consented, but woul'd not let me leave him. The heat of the day lulled him to sleep when drawing a dagger, I stabbed him, which was the only way to preserve my chastity.

When she had ended her story, he embrac'd her tenderly, told her to end these accidents the best was for them to be married; which they shortly after were, with much joy and grandeur, the King and Queen being present.

When they had been married about ten months, Sabra was delivered of three sons, one was named Guy, another Alexander, and the other David, who were all educated with due care, and brought up in the knowledge and love of arms, and in the use of which they excell'd all other Knights both far and near. And that Christendom might never want a champion or his sons an opportunity of distinguishing themselves, he sent the eldest to Rome, to be brought up by the Emperer, the second to the King of England, the third to the King of Bohemia, where they remained.

till they came to years of maturity, and then set out to visit their parents, before they began to rid the world of monsters.

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## C H A P. V.

Of Sabra's death, and St. George's killing a dragon, which occasioned his death.

**S**T. George from the time of his fair spouse's delivery, had lived with her at home in peace and happiness, 'till their sons had attained the age of eighteen years. At this age they came to visit their parents all together, who received them with all joy and tenderness possible. When they had rested themselves some few days and were recovered from their fatigues, one of them proposed hunting, which the others agreed to; and St. George resolved to accompany them; and Sabra, hearing his resolution, must needs go likewise..

But, alas! who can look into the will of the Almighty? or account for his actions? unfortunate condition of human life!— This hunting match was productive of an accident which laid aside all the happiness and pleasures with which St. George had flattered himself, and also made his sons exceedingly unhappy for some time.

The chase being warm, and Sabra willing to keep up with the rest, spurred her horse so much, that he threw her into a thorny briar, which tore her tender flesh so terribly, that she found she had not long to live, whereupon calling to St. George and her sons, she very affectionately embraced them, not being able to speak and soon after died, and was buried at Coventry.

St. George raised a very handsome monument to her memory, on which was engraved the following epitaph, written by her sons :

Reader pass not, but let thy tears be shed,  
Over the virtuous and the beauteous dead ;  
Loyal and chaste she was, and all her life,  
Did pattern out a kind and loving wife.  
By the hard destinies her doom was wrought,  
A cruel fate her to destruction brought.  
Yet tho' her body lies in this cold tomb,  
The earth's too scant for her soul's vast doom.  
It's wing'd for heaven, and took a hasty flight  
For crowns of blessings in the realms of light.  
However weep, since death hath taken more,  
Than nature to the world can e'er restore.

Her funeral obsequies being over, St. George determined to go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. This resolution being dif-

*very good,*

covered to the other champions, they resolved to accompany him—After enduring many difficulties they all arrived at the Holy Sepulchre : but for what they performed in their journey thinner, and to their return, with the valiant exploits of St. George's three sons, we must refer our readers to the history of the Seven Champions.

St. George, having parted with his noble companions, returned home : where he led a life of sorrow, till the King sent to inform him that a monstrous dragon lived in Dunsmore-heath, who much annoyed all the country round, destroying every thing it could come near.

Against this monster, for his country's safety, he took his way, and after a dreadful combat, slew the dragon. But this proved the most fatal of all his encounters, for the vast quantities of poison thrown upon him by the monstrous beast, so infected his vital spirits, that two days after he died in his own house, having charged his sons to follow his steps in virtue and heroic deeds ; recommending them likewise to the King, who was then present, and afterwards preferred them to the chief places of trust in the kingdom.

St. George was buried in a church bearing his name, at Windsor. His legend, killing a dragon, is given us as the English badge of honour to our nobles.

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